

My Health eVet Pilot Seeks Additional Participants as National Roll-Out Gears Up

My Health eVet is a web-based system that empowers veterans by improving patient access to information, tools and resources. Phase 1 of the National My Health eVet Program was released Veterans Day 2003 giving veterans the ability to access the VA eHealth portal from any computer with Internet access and provide one-stop shopping for VA benefits, special programs, health information and services, and showcase existing information developed by VHA program offices. The next release will allow prescription refill, the ability to view total co-payment balance, scheduled appointments, and self-entered data and metrics

Since last year, Network 2 has been participating as a pilot test site for My Health eVet. Participation as a pilot site, allows our veterans to try other features not yet available on the National site. Network 2 is still looking for patients to enroll in the pilot program. Please note that, at present, concurrence of the patient's primary care provider is

required for pilot participation. If you have a patient you think might be interested in participating in the Network 2 My Health eVet pilot, discuss the program with them and have them visit their local Release of Information (ROI) office.

Veterans participating in the pilot are given copies of key portions of their electronic health records. This record is stored in a secure and private environment called an eVault. Veterans can also add structured medical information in the "self-entered" section of their eVault. Their participation in this pilot will help shape the future enhancements on the National site.

For more information about My Health eVet or eHealth in Network 2 visit the eHealth project page at:

vaww.visn2.med.va.gov/ehealth/index.html

Bath Celebrates 125th Anniversary

On January 23, over 120 employees, volunteers, and patients gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Bath Medical Center. The **Honorable John R. Kuhl** of the State Senate and the **Honorable James Bacalles** of the State Assembly presented Medical Center Director, **David Wood** with a proclamation from the New York State Legislature commemorating the fact that what we now know as the Bath VA was originally the New York State Grand Army of the Republic Soldiers and Sailors Home. Many thanks to the Veterans Employee Advisory Board for arranging this ceremony honoring this milestone.



David Wood, Medical Center Director (left) accepts the proclamation from **Senator John R. Kuhl** (center) and **Assemblyman James Bacalles** (right).

Awards and Recognition

With just 24 hours notice, employees of the Stratton VA Medical Center were able to provide physicals to 116 soldiers for Department of Defense during a Reservist Activation Event in November. Staff provided physical exams, immunizations, tonometry and general vision exams, audiograms, dental exams and X-rays, EKG and blood work.



Through the generosity of the VA and many outside organizations, during the holiday season, 22 veteran families from Western New York were assisted by the VA Western New York Healthcare System's (VAWNYHS) *Adopt-A-Family* program. Special thanks goes to the Federal Women's Program, American Legion Auxiliary, U.S. Attorney's Office, Pentecostal Temple-Church of God in Christ, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, New York State Nurses Association, Buffalo Flight Services, Buffalo office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Coast Guard, EEOC, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Vietnam Veterans of America Post #77, Disabled American Veterans, U.S. Army Reserve 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, and the Federal Executive Board. **Faith Hoffman**, MSW from VAWNYHS coordinated the event.

The third quarter 2003 Outpatient Survey of Healthcare Experience of Patients report is in. Congratulations to pharmacy operations! The Canandaigua Outpatient Clinic Pharmacy was rated #1 in the country for "pharmacy pick-up" customer satisfaction scores with a score of 93.81. Batavia was rated #3 with a satisfaction score of 87.50. The national mean score for this category was 60.40.

Rene Bloomer, Cardiology Supervisor at the Stratton VA Medical Center was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. From her award:

"Lieutenant Colonel Rene A. Bloomer distinguished herself in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as Clinical Nurse, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts. During this period, Colonel Bloomer's exceptional organizational skills and extensive knowledge of medical field training greatly enhanced the medical readiness status of all unit personnel. As the Officer in Charge of Aeromedical Staging Facility Training and a key member of the Team Yankee Joint Service Exercise Planning Committee, Colonel Bloomer toiled relentlessly to ensure the realistic scenarios for annual field training exercises, led to the successful accomplishment of Medical Readiness, Ancillary and Sustainment Training by all medical personnel involved. Her demonstrated leadership as Chief Nurse during the unit's 2000 Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection contributed greatly to the unit's "GREEN" mission-ready score. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Bloomer reflect great credit upon herself and the United States Air Force."

Dr. Laura Wray, Gero-Psychologist, VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS) and **Dr. Mollie Shulan**, Geriatrician, Stratton VA Medical Center were awarded a VA Health Services Research and Delivery grant to study the impact of telephone-administered education and support groups for caregivers of veterans with dementia.

Dr. Linda Hershey, VAWNYHS Neurology Chief was selected to be included in "Best Doctors in America 2003-2004." The Best Doctors in America database represents the top 5% of doctors in over 400 subspecialties of medicine.

Syracuse VA Medical Center's **David Evangelista**, Staff Assistant to the Director, Co-Manager of the Service Line was awarded the American College of Healthcare Executives Diplomate status.

The February issue of *RN Magazine* featured an article written by VAWNYHS nurses **Colleen Murphy**, RN and **Ann Converso**, RN entitled: "Winning the Battle Against Back Injuries."

Appointment

Dr. Alan Fantuzzo has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Bath VA Medical Center.